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CONTACT:

Karen Larimore Wilkinson, PIO  
Director of Public Information & Communications  
City of Salisbury  
City Hall, 217 South Main Street  
Salisbury, North Carolina 28144  
Work Phone: 704-638-2113  
Cell Phone: 704-213-1050  
Information: <http://www.salisburync.gov>  
Work Email Contact: [kwilk@salisburync.gov](mailto:kwilk@salisburync.gov)

## **Salisbury Police Department Re-organization Offers Eleven Promotions**

*Internal Advancements to Offer Organizational Leadership during Department Transition and Restructure*

Salisbury, NC – March 22, 2011\_ Police Chief Rory Collins announced today that eleven promotions are part of an extensive restructuring process for the Salisbury Police Department. Effective as of Monday, March 21, the department began transitioning through a re-organization process aimed at better aligning key individuals with leadership roles. Internal promotions follow the recent completion of extensive, internal assessment proceedings.

Chief Collins shares, "I can honestly say that the evaluation process that we have recently completed, included multiple categories of research and review. By examining the strengths, capabilities, and proven leadership of individuals within our department, we were able to identify many truly skilled and knowledgeable leaders. These individuals will assist our sworn and civilian staff as we move forward together and make significant strides toward the transition and growth of the Salisbury Police Department."

The following outlines officers, promotional rank, and new area of responsibility:

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Promotion to Rank</b>	<b>Division/Area of Responsibility</b>
Lt. Melonie Thompson	Captain	Operations Division-Patrol and Traffic
Lt. Shelia Lingle	Captain	Police Services-Criminal Investigations, Drug Unit, Street Crimes Unit (newly created unit), Communication Center, Records, and other support areas
Sgt. Andy Efird	Lieutenant	Professional Standards-Internal Affairs, Accreditation Process, K-9 Unit, Fleet Management, Staff Inspections, and Other Related Areas
Sgt. Tom Wilsey	Lieutenant	Patrol Management Area-Management within the Patrol Function (newly created area)
Sgt. Lee Walker	Lieutenant	Patrol Management Area-Management within the Patrol Function (newly created area)
Sgt. Brian Stallings	Lieutenant	Criminal Investigations-Criminal Investigations Unit: Detectives, Drug Investigators, and Street Crimes Unit (newly created unit)

Officer Todd Sides	Sergeant	Criminal Investigations-First-line Detectives Supervision (Sides will continue as primary "gangs intelligence" officer for the department).
Officer Jason Robertson	Sergeant	Patrol Team-First-line Supervision for Patrol Officers
Officer Joe Miller	Sergeant	Recruitment-Management of the Departmental Recruitment Processes
Officer Mark Hunter	Sergeant	Patrol Team- First-line Supervision for Patrol Officers
Officer Rodney Mahaley	Sergeant	Drug Unit-First-line Supervision for Drug Unit Investigators

Chief Collins concludes, "I am excited about the opportunities for the Salisbury Police Department as we move forward as a team. Each person in our department, regardless of rank and position, whether sworn or civilian, plays a key role in our overall success. Our greatest achievements will be recognized by continuing to keep a positive attitude and by remembering that our department exists in order to serve our citizens to the best of our abilities."

The eleven promotions became official yesterday, during a Monday afternoon "pinning" ceremony that took place before family members and peers. Those promoted, represent a culmination of over 150 years of law enforcement service dedicated to the citizens of Salisbury. Brief bios of those promoted are outlined below:

**Captain Melonie Thompson** – Captain Thompson has served the Salisbury Police Department for eighteen years, first serving the department as a police intern. She began her full-time career with a specialty unit targeting street-level-drug activity and later moved to patrol. Thompson became a patrol sergeant and was later promoted to patrol lieutenant. For the last four years, Thompson has supervised the K-9 and Traffic Safety Units, and managed parades, permits, special events, and fleet. Thompson holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice from Appalachian State University. She is married to Salisbury Fire Captain Mark Thompson and has four children.

**Captain Shelia Lingle** – Captain Lingle has served the Salisbury Police Department for twenty-two years. Lingle has served as patrol officer, detective in criminal investigations, patrol operations sergeant, sergeant of the narcotics unit, patrol operations lieutenant, and criminal investigations lieutenant. In addition, Lingle serves as a hostage negotiator for the Special Response Team. She is a graduate of Pfeiffer College and holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. Lingle is a graduate of the Criminal Investigators Academy at the North Carolina Justice Academy and holds basic, intermediate, and advanced law enforcement certifications by the North Carolina Justice Training and Standards Commission. She was named Young Officer of the Year in 1992 and Employee of the Year during 2001. Lingle makes her home in Rowan County with husband Todd and their two children.

**Lieutenant Andy Efird** – Lieutenant Efird began his career with the Salisbury Police Department during 1999, first serving as a reserve officer and later moving to a full-time position within the patrol division. During 2005, Efird was reassigned to the Traffic Safety Unit where he obtained certification as a "Vehicle Crash Reconstructionist." He serves as the lead firearms instructor for the department and also serves on the department's

special response team. Efirid holds an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Stanly County Community College and is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Mountain State University. Efirid makes his home in Rowan County with wife Laura and their two daughters.

**Lieutenant Tom Wilsey** – Lieutenant Wilsey is a four-year veteran of the United States Marine Corp and obtained the rank of sergeant during his military service. He began serving with the Salisbury Police Department during 1997 as a reserve officer. While with the department, Lieutenant Wilsey has held the positions of patrol officer, detective, investigations sergeant, and training sergeant. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Catawba College and a Master of Business Administration degree from Pfeiffer University. Lieutenant Wilsey makes his home in Rowan County with wife Alison and their four children.

**Lieutenant Lee Walker** – Lieutenant Walker has served in law enforcement for sixteen years. Walker worked for the Boone Police Department for eight years before coming to serve the City of Salisbury. He is a certified instructor with specialties in physical fitness, subject control, driving, and firearms. Walker is a graduate of BLET and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Catawba College. He and wife Dona have three sons.

**Lieutenant Brian Stallings** – Lieutenant Stallings began his employment with the Salisbury Police Department during 1996. He has served the department as patrol officer, detective assigned to child abuse and sexual assault investigations, as the department's victim advocate, and as sergeant within the general criminal investigations division. Stallings holds three Bachelor of Arts Degrees from Pfeiffer University. His undergraduate degrees are in Sociology, Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement, and Criminal Justice Corrections. Stallings also holds a Master's of Business Administration degree from Pfeiffer University. Lieutenant Stallings makes his home in Rowan County with wife Andrea and their three children.

**Sergeant Todd Sides** – Sergeant Sides began his employment with the Salisbury Police Department during 2000. He has served the department as a patrol officer, narcotics investigator, gang and violent crimes investigator, member of the Special Response Team, and in the general investigations division. Sides is a graduate of Appalachian State University and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Psychology. He received his BLET certification through Rowan Cabarrus Community College and is a member of the Executive Board of the N.C. Homicide Investigator's Association and the N.C. Gang Investigator's Association. Sides is married to wife Jessica and has two children.

**Sergeant Jason Robertson** – Sergeant Robertson began his career with the Salisbury Police Department in 2000 after serving as a correctional officer for two years with the Piedmont Correctional Institution. Robertson, a graduate of Rowan Cabarrus Community College, has served the department as field training officer, assistant team leader, and acting sergeant for patrol. He currently serves as chaplain for the Salisbury-Rowan Fraternal Order of Police. Sergeant Robertson makes his home with wife Jennifer and their two children.

**Sergeant Joe Miller** – Sergeant Miller began his work with the Salisbury Police Department during 1998 as a police telecommunicator. Following completion of BLET,

Miller became a sworn officer in December of 2000. During his career with the department, Miller has served as patrol officer, traffic safety officer, and assistant team leader, community-service-project coordinator for the traffic unit, field-training officer, and master police officer. In addition, he has served as Fatal Vision® Project Manager and the department's liaison for the Governor's Highway Safety Program. Miller holds Intermediate Law Enforcement certification through the North Carolina Criminal Justice Training & Standards Committee and is eligible for the advanced certificate. He has attended advanced traffic crash investigation school and numerous leadership classes for application toward the Leadership Certificate Program at Rowan Cabarrus Community College. Miller is currently enrolled as a student at Stanly Community College in pursuit of his Associate's Degree. Awards include Veteran Officer of the Year during 2007 and receipt of the East Rowan's Brad Patrick SADD Chapter's Officer of the Year recognition during both 2007 and 2008. He resides in Rowan County with wife Kristen and their daughter.

**Sergeant Mark Hunter** – Sergeant Hunter has been employed with the Salisbury Police Department for more than eighteen years. Prior to serving in the law enforcement arena, Hunter served his country in the United States Army, completing tours in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. Hunter has also previously served as a law enforcement officer in the state of Texas. Hunter holds an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Colorado Technical University. He makes his home in Rowan County and is married with five children and five grandchildren.

**Sergeant Rodney Mahaley** – Sergeant Mahaley began full-time employment with Salisbury Police during 1993, following service as a reserve officer for the department. Mahaley has served as a patrol officer and within the ranks of vice and narcotics. He has completed training opportunities including DEA Narcotics Investigator School and DEA Methamphetamine Operators School. Mahaley has been on the Special Response Team for the past thirteen years and currently serves as team leader. In addition, he serves as a firearms instructor for the department.

The Salisbury Police Department is an internationally accredited law enforcement agency and currently employs 106 full-time sworn and civilian personnel. For non-emergency information regarding the Salisbury Police Department, please call 704-638-5333 or visit [www.salisburyncpd.org](http://www.salisburyncpd.org).

The City of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and 400 full time positions. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury and its services and departments, please visit us on the web at [www.salisburync.gov](http://www.salisburync.gov). To receive updates regarding local initiatives, meetings, programs, and events, please join the City of Salisbury's Facebook users group at [www.salisburync.gov/facebook](http://www.salisburync.gov/facebook) or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CitySalisburyNC>.

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